



## Light For Your Life

### Dates to Remember....

- Office Closed, 9/4
- Comfort Dog Luncheon, 9/17
- Men's Golf, 9/30
- Comfort Dog Fundraising Dinner, 10/15
- Trunk or Treat, 10/31

**Grow**-Matthew 6:33

**Connect**-1 Corinthians 12:27

**Go**- Matthew 28:19-20

# September 2017

## Message from Pastor Jay...



### JACKPOT!!!!

\$336 million after taxes.

That's what the winner of the Powerball jackpot received.

What if that was you? What you could/would do with \$336 million? Our minds naturally go there and think about what we would or could do with all that money. The lottery people are banking on our imaginations, longings and daydreaming to keep the money flowing. In fact, as the money goes up, more tickets are sold, which actually decreases your chances of winning. "But all it takes is just one ticket and somebody's gotta win. It may as well be me". If you haven't said it, you've probably thought it.

Jesus put it quite simply, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Mt.6:21)

But all too often hearts are attracted to shiny things-- things that promise fulfillment, security & power. Our hearts are too quick to run after the next jackpot, the next promise of bling that can turn our would/could into reality. 5 quick picks and \$15 later, you're still waiting for "the day."

What gets way overshadowed in the lure of mega-million prizes is that the greatest treasure is already among us.

Jesus, again, put it quite simply, "What shall a man give in return for his soul?" (Mt.16:26)

What value would you place on your soul? If it was condemned to hell for all eternity, how much would you pay to get it back? \$336 million? More maybe?

Jesus' point is to turn our heads from the temporary and false promises that dance just beyond our grasp to the fulfillment of all hope and life that has come as a free gift.

One more time, Jesus and His simple words; "The time is fulfilled, the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel." (Mk.1:15)

What if that were you? What could/would you do with the Kingdom of God?

Good news. It is here. In Jesus. Just one question remains,

What will you do with it..?

I have one idea a little later in this newsletter. In the meantime, enjoy your winnings at Christ's expense.

Pastor Jay

# From our DCE Intern

## Angela Duerr

I've been having a bit of an identity crisis lately. The first day of school has come and gone and I'm not enrolled in classes. I have to say, it is really weird to not be spending every week day in a classroom. This year is the first year in 17 years that I have not started school in August. I am only 22 years old. That means that most of my life I have been a student, that has been the primary piece of my identity. Everything I did revolved around homework and grades. But now, because I walked across a stage, shook a guy's hand, and got mailed a fancy piece of paper that says "Diploma" I'm suddenly not a student anymore? That was my identity for so long, having it change so quickly is a little disconcerting. But this crisis of identity has led me to two realizations:

I'm still a student. I may not sit in a classroom every day, read textbooks, or prepare for tests, but I am still very much a student. I spend every day learning more about who God is and how He is working around and through me. He is constantly teaching me more about His love and how He interacts with me and others. Sometimes He teaches me through organized classes like the Experiencing God class (which is totally awesome and you should definitely take it next time around). Other times God teaches me through simple moments of intimacy with Him, be that a sunset, a gentle whisper, or the fact that my new friends ended up napping on the floor of my apartment the other day. God is always working around me to prove to me just how much He loves me and wants to be in relationship with me.

My identity is not found in school. If who I am is determined by what I do, then I've got something backwards in my life. Rather, my actions should come from my identity. Who I am is found in Christ. He is the source of life, therefore He is the source of what I do. Being a student should never have been my identity. It probably was for a while. But the truth is, I am still who I am despite the fact that I do not have syllabi to look over and research papers to write. I am still the same person that I was five months ago because my identity is in Christ and He never changes.

Maybe I don't really have to have an identity crisis because my identity has not changed.

What about you? When did you get uprooted, lose a job, lose a relationship, or deal with changing health? How did you feel? Lost, or confused about what you were supposed to do, or wondering who you are since things have changed? In Zephaniah 3:17 God says, "The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." God said this right after he told the Israelites of the destruction that was about to take place in the land.

Everything was going to change for them, but He promised to stand by them, save them, and love them, more than that, he fulfilled those promised. In Jesus, He does the same for us. Our God is with us when our home is no longer our home. He becomes our way when our job is lost. He stays with us when we are abandoned. He sustains us when our bodies will not.

I hope you can take as much encouragement from this as I have. I know that I can keep moving forward in my new job and life situation because I know that the Lord my God is with me and He is mighty to save.

In Christ,  
Angela

## Jackpot Too...

Along with His Kingdom as a treasure, the Lord provides for us workers who help us grow in that Kingdom. One particular gift that God has given to Light of the Valley is Vicar Michael Dube. We rejoice that Michael is scheduled to be ordained into the Pastoral Ministry in January. At that time, he will be Pastor Dube overseeing our senior care and outreach ministries. He will continue his online classes for the next two years to finish a degree.

What many people do not realize is that Michael has been taking classes and assisting with the ministry while holding a full time job. Additionally he has been covering the cost of the classes on his own.

The Strategic Planning Council (SPC) voted at a recent meeting to establish a fund to help Michael with his schooling . During the month of September, we will be celebrating the fact that Light of the Valley has already won a “Powerball Jackpot” in the form of this man who The Lord has led to serve among us.

So please prayerfully consider contributing to “Senior Ministry” designated fund in support of God’s Kingdom work in and outside of our church. Look for more information in the weekly bulletin.

Thanks be to God for His Kingdom coming and the great gifts He gives us to know and grow in that Kingdom!

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**New  
Members  
(8/20/2017)**





## K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry

### Comfort Dog Ministry Update

*“And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”*  
Luke 11:9-10

As of 8/20/2017, **by the grace of God**, our Comfort Dog Ministry fund is now **over \$7,500** (through grants, donations, and fund raising) which is enough for the initial deposit for our LCC (Lutheran Church Charities) Comfort Dog. We have submitted our application, identified the ministry team (but will always be looking for others willing to serve in this ministry), and looking forward to finding out if we as a congregation, will be approved for a Comfort Dog.

Once approved, we will need to make the initial deposit for the Comfort Dog, then it will be another 12-18 months (we thought it would be about 12 months, but LCC recently told us it is now typically 12-18 months) before we actually receive our own LCC K-9 Comfort Dog! But we will be busy, as we still have plenty of work to get this ministry off the ground, and any help from the congregation and community would be appreciated.

#### What will it entail?

**Lots of prayers**...and more prayers. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

**Awareness:** We will need to reach out into the community to bring awareness about the new ministry, especially to the nearby schools, hospitals and senior care homes

**Fund Raising:** We will need to raise another \$5,000 - \$6,000 for travel expenses for the training of the comfort dog handlers and care providers (see training below) this year. In addition, we will need to raise an additional \$10,000 - \$12,000 for the Comfort Dog in 2018 (balance of the \$15,000 plus other expenses).

We are currently planning a free-will “dog theme” luncheon for the congregation on **Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> after 2<sup>nd</sup> service** (so Pastor can wear his “hotdog” costume).

A larger dinner (open to the public too) at the Legacy Ranch (Reeds’ Ranch) on **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm**. We will be serving Tri-tip and spaghetti. Tickets will be available starting at our luncheon on 9/17/2017.

Grants and sponsorship from the community are other ways we plan to fund this ministry start up and to continue the ministry.

**Identify a “back-up home”** which is a home where the comfort dog will stay 1-2 nights a month, and also during the time that the primary caregivers are traveling/vacationing, as the dog will still need to be working.

If you love dogs, but you don’t want the full-time responsibility of caring for a dog, this might be a great opportunity for you!

**The training** for the handlers and caregivers is where they will learn about the mission of *sharing the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those*



LoV's ENCOURAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE  
*Melissa Riley*

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WORK YOU DID TO MAKE OUR 2017 VBS A SUCCESS!

A GREAT BIG  
THANK YOU...Thanks  
to the following people who  
continued to help in July with the  
Lutheran High School closure in  
preparation for the Fortune  
Charter school move in: Sue  
Mason, Ron Miedema, Wendell &  
Darlene Alff, Pam Hogge and  
Dave Penney.

**WE APPRECIATE YOU!!!  
WE APPRECIATE YOU!!!**

**ATTENTION ALL LoV Ministry  
Servants! SAVE THE DATE...for  
our Annual LoV Servant  
Appreciation dinner on Sunday,  
November 5th from 5:30-8pm.**

# September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 <i>Labor Day LoV office closed</i>	5 <i>Confirmation Class 6:30pm</i>	6 <i>Experiencing God 6:30-8pm;</i>	7	8	9 <i>Men's Bible Study &amp; Breakfast 8-10am</i>
10	11	12 <i>Quilters &amp; Crocheting 1- 3pm</i>	13 <i>Experiencing God 6:30- 8pm</i>	14	15	16
17 <i>K-9 luncheon</i>	18	19 <i>Quilters &amp; Crocheting 1- 3pm</i>	20 <i>PrimeTimers 12-2pm; Experiencing God 6:30-8pm</i>	21	22	23 <i>Men's Bible Study &amp; Breakfast 8- 10am</i>
24	25	26 <i>Quilters &amp; Crocheting 1- 3pm</i>	27 <i>Experiencing God 6:30- 8pm</i>	28	29	30 <i>Men's Golf</i>

*What we are about:*

**Walking with one another reflecting the light of Jesus.**

*What it looks like:*

***A relationship with God that is personal and daily.***

***Relationships in the home that reflect God's grace.***

***Relationships in the church that reflect God's love.***

***A relationship with the world that engages neighbors and nations.***

## SEPTEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Hogge Hospitality  
Fellowship team

### COUNTERS

9/3	Hogge, Miedema & Penney's	9/17	Kohlbaker's & Mikaelson
9/10	Burton's & Seatris	9/24	Bailey & Alff

### Kid's Church

#### Preschool Teachers/Helpers

9/3	Carin Hill & Melissa Riley
9/10	Summer Mitchell & Rosie Pennington
9/17	Nick Leach & Melissa Riley
9/24	Carin Hill & Rosie Pennington

#### Elementary Teachers/Helpers

9/3	Angela Duerr & Virgil Stephens
9/10	Lisa Bailey & Keanna Thomas
9/17	Barbara Vasser & Virgil Stephens
9/24	Amanda West & Keanna Thomas



**Prayer Chain:** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:6)*

**Were you aware we have an email Prayer Chain?** We have 74 prayer warriors that are willing and able to pray for your needs and those of your loved ones.

**How do you submit a prayer:** You can submit your requests on our website, or email [marilyn.hunter@att.net](mailto:marilyn.hunter@att.net). If it is an emergency prayer, please call or text Marilyn Hunter 916-833-5593 or Pastor Jay 916-799-2611.

**Would you like to join the prayer chain?** Email Marilyn Hunter at [marilyn.hunter@att.net](mailto:marilyn.hunter@att.net) and ask to join.

**Please Note:** The Part time LoV office position that was advertised in the July/August newsletter is currently on hold due to both the transition activities with Cheri's retirement and to financial considerations. Once we have a more clear picture of both the need and the financial position we will revisit this position after the first of the year.

# LoV U... Course Schedule Updates

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Fee</u>
<b>September</b>				
<i>Confirmation Class (2 years)</i>	9/6	<i>Wed</i>	<i>6:30-8pm</i>	\$0
<i>(Class meets periodically, not every week)</i>				
<b>October</b>				
<i>First Communion Class*</i>				
Session 1	10/1	Sun	12-1pm	\$0
Session 2	10/15	Sun	12-1pm	\$0
<i>Faith 5*</i>	<i>10/25</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>6:30-8pm</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>(Class will meet at the Hoffman home on Wednesday evenings for six weeks)</i>				
<i>New Member Class</i>	<i>10/22</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>12-3pm</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>*date changes from original catalog schedule</i>				
<b>November</b>				
<i>No new classes scheduled this month</i>				
<b>December</b>				
<i>No new classes scheduled this month</i>				

## New Member Class

Three hour membership class that covers-

- ♦ Our purpose and vision for ministry in this community
- ♦ Our core values
- ♦ The structure of our church
- ♦ Why join Light of the Valley (or any church for that matter)
- ♦ LoV membership requirements
- ♦ Membership expectations & opportunities



### First Communion Class

Holy Communion, along with Baptism, is one of the two sacraments in Lutheranism. When a Lutheran child receives Holy Communion for the first time, that child is supposed to

understand what the sacrament means. This class will teach students the importance of Holy Communion and what is behind the words such as "given for you" and "shed for you for the



### Confirmation Class

A two year course designed to help parents and their youth to understand and apply the doctrines of the Christian faith and to be equipped to follow Jesus in their daily lives.



### Faith 5 (For Parents)

Connects church to home, faith to life, and parents to kids in a powerful way. Learn the five steps of the Faith 5.

L O V U

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*What it looks like:*

*A relationship with God that is personal and daily.*

*Relationships in the home that reflect God's grace.*

*Relationships in the church that reflect God's love.*

*A relationship with the world that engages neighbors and nations.*



**September 10th** will be Mite Box Sunday this month. All proceeds will go to LWML mission projects.



Tuesday

10/31 at Lov

Contact Angela for more information  
[angela@lightofthevalley.net](mailto:angela@lightofthevalley.net)

**THANK  
YOU!**

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU...Thanks to the following people who continued to help in July with the Lutheran High School closure in preparation for the Fortune Charter school move in: Sue Mason, Ron Miedema, Wendell & Darlene Alff, Pam Hogge and Dave Penney.



Our 3rd annual Women's Retreat "The Vine Speaks" was a great success! We had 43 women registered. Becky Gibson led us in worship and our guest speaker was Cindy Steinbeck from Steinbeck Vineyards. Friday and Saturday were "very uplifting". Some of the comments we heard from the woman who attended, "I enjoyed Cindy's thorough walk thru the bible versus with us", "I enjoyed being with friends and the crafts", "I enjoyed our table fellowship and Cindy's sessions", "I enjoyed Cindy's story and imagery", "Cindy's presentation was wonderful". If you missed out this year, please watch for details on next years event.



# Welcome Fortune Charter School!



**Thank You  
for your  
Faithful giving!**

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**LoV Budget Update**  
*(July 2016-  
June 2017)*

*Receipts/Income:*  
\$39,784

*Expenses:*  
\$40,937

*Deficit:*  
\$1,152.74

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**First to the Lord  
Pledge Summary**  
*(For 3/1/2017-2/28/2018)*

*Goal:*

\$336,457

*\*Total Received:*  
\$123,985.50

*% of Goal:*  
37%

*\*as of 8/30/2017*

*Psalm 116:12*

To set up a recurring contributions on-line, visit our church website and locate the electronic on-line giving page or contact the church office.

Thank you for your faithful giving.



**Hospitality Fellowship teams 2017 schedules**

*(Please save the dates to help your team out)*

**January-Penney Team**

**July-Penney Team**

**February-Ulatowski Team**

**August-Ulatowski Team**

**March-Hogge Team**

**September-Hogge Team**

**April-Penney Team**

**October-Penney Team**

**May-Ulatowski Team**

**November-Hogge Team**

**June-Hogge Team**

**December-Ulatowski Team**

*Please get with your Hospitality team leads know your availability to serve in the months that your team is scheduled for in 2017.*

## September Birthday's

- 2 Emma Stephens
- 2 Barbara Vasser
- 3 Mary Millers
- 9 Brady Brooks
- 11 Pam Hogge
- 12 John Ulatowski
- 16 Karen Terry
- 18 Dick Voxland
- 21 Nick Leach
- 25 Brennan Reed
- 26 Jack Hill
- 27 Cameron Nickson



## September Anniversaries

- 1 Stanley & Judy Sala
- 3 Dan & Sheryl Judge
- Steven & Summer  
Mitchell
- 28 Ken & Lauri Leach



**Join us for Kid's Church on  
Sundays during 10:30am Service  
as we Dig Into the Bible!  
Elementary School: Ages 6-11  
Preschool: Ages 2-5 (Potty Trained)**

**JOIN OUR SEWING CIRCLE!!**

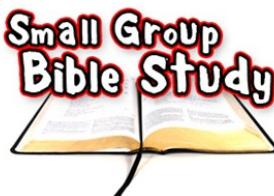
We are starting a sewing circle to update our Christmas Pageant Costumes! Please join us for a fun day of fellowship and sewing!

Date: Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>  
Time: 9:30am-2:00pm  
Where: LOV

We have the patterns!  
We need *fabric donors, sewers, pattern cutters, and potluckers!*  
We will have sign up information following both services.

For more details, please contact Carin Hill at (916) 205-8268 or Melissa Riley at (209) 662-1649

## LightHouse Groups Schedules...



*Walking with one another in the light of Jesus*

<u>Group Host</u>	<u>Day of Week</u>	<u>How often</u>	<u>Time**</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Demographics</u>
Matranga	Monday	Weekly	12:00pm	LoV	Mixed Group
Mitchell	Monday	Weekly	6:30pm	LoV	Young Families
Hunter	Tuesday	Weekly	7:00pm	Sweet home	Mixed Group
Burton	Thursday	Weekly	6:30pm	Burton home	Mixed Group
Michael Dube`	Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	LoV	Men

*Groups are 1.5 hours in length with the exception Matranga Lunch Bunch and Men's group who also have food time.*

# ATTENTION ALL MEN

## 9 HOLE GOLF SCRAMBLE AND BBQ

### Saturday, 9/30

Invite your friends!

**10a.m. @ Bradshaw Golf Course**  
**\$20 each**  
**(\$7 if you want to play another round after lunch)**  
**Payments can be made @ [lightofthevalley.net/give](http://lightofthevalley.net/give)**  
**Contact Cody for more information: 916-690-3414**

**Service Times:**  
Traditional-8:45am  
Contemporary-10:30am  
(*Kid's Church at the  
10:30 service*)



***Light of the Valley Church***  
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